IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 14, and ending at page 12, line 9, as follows.

--Light from the light source 101 passes through the polarization prism 102 whereby it is transformed into linearly polarized light. Thereafter, the light goes through the quarter phase plate 103 having a phase advance axis tilted by +45 deg. with respect to a horizontal axis, by which the incident light 104 is transformed into ~~a clockwise~~ right-handed circular polarization light. Here, the light source 101, the polarization prism 102 and the quarter phase plate 103 constitute a light projecting unit. A circularly polarized light from this light projecting unit is incident on a sample 105. Under the influence of birefringence of the sample 105, the output light 106 emerging from the sample 105 is generally elliptically polarized light, and it enters the dividing unit 107. The output light is divided thereby into a first light beam being reflected under the same polarization state as the output light 106 and a second light beam being transmitted under the same polarization state as the output light 106. The first light beam enters a dual-beam type Glan-Thompson prism 109 whereby it is divided into two light beams being polarized orthogonally. The divided light beams are then incident on the light receiving portions 110 and 111, respectively. The second light beam transmitted through the dividing unit 107 furthermore enters the dividing unit 108 whereby it is divided into a third light beam being reflected again under the same polarization state as the output light 106 and a fourth light beam being transmitted under the same polarization state as the output light 106. The third light beam is then incident on a single-beam type Glan-Thompson prism 112 having its transmission axis rotated by and fixed at +45 deg. such that a +45 deg. linear polarization component is received by

the light receiving portion 113. The fourth light beam is incident on a quarter ($\lambda/4$) phase difference plate 114 having its advance axis rotated by and fixed at +45 deg., and thereafter it is incident on a single-beam type Glan-Thompson prism 115 having its transmission axis fixed at 90 deg., such that only the transmitted polarization component is detected by the light receiving portion 116. On the basis of the detected values of light quantities as detected by the light receiving portions 110, 111, 113 and 116, the computing circuit 117 calculates to detect the Strokes parameters.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 17, and ending at page 18, line 7, as follows.

--The constants rp, rs, tp and ts may be detected beforehand by calculation or measurement, and correcting calculation may be performed for these constants. In the calculating means 117, the following equations are carried out to detect the Stokes parameters $S_0$ (total light quantity), $S_1$ (horizontal linear polarization component), $S_2$ (+45 deg. linear polarization component), and $S_3$ (~~clockwise~~ right-handed circular polarization component).

$$S_0 = (I_1+I_2) / |r_p r_s|^2$$

$$S_1 = (I_1-I_2) / |r_p r_s|^2$$

$$S_2 = 2*I_3 / |r_{p'} r_s t_p t_s|^2 - S_0$$

$$S_3 = 2*I_4 / |t_p t_s|^4 - S_0$$--